

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and contextual errors. The contextual errors (i.e., reciting SEQ ID NO: 2 where the specification should have recited SEQ ID NO: 3) are obvious from the fact that the surrounding text describes a polypeptide, and SEQ ID NO: 2 is a polynucleotide, whereas SEQ ID NO: 3 is a polypeptide.

Claims 1-11 are canceled.

Claims 12-21 are new.

Support for each new claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the specification.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 12-21 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

Applicants thank Examiners Long and Epps-Ford for the helpful and courteous interview of July 20, 2007, wherein proposed claims and difference between Matsumoto and the proposed claims were discussed.

All rejections and objections to Claims 1-11 are obviated by cancellation of Claims 1-11.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully note that Matsumoto reference, based on molecular weight (MW), describes a different protein than any protein of the present invention, and therefore, cannot anticipate or render obvious the claims.

The protein of Matsumoto has a molecular weight of 100,000 daltons (see column 10, lines 58-59). When the protein of Matsumoto is decomposed, the resulting fragments have molecular weights lower than 10,000 daltons (see column 11, lines 5-6).

SEQ ID NO: 3 of the present invention, conversely, for example, has a molecular weight of approximately 142,000 daltons (obtained by multiplying 1420 amino acids x 100

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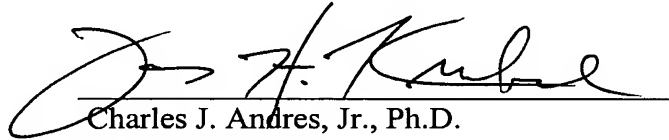
daltons/amino acid). Thus, the protein of Matsumoto, and its denatured fragments, are different from any protein of the present invention. Matsumoto cannot therefore anticipate or render obvious the present claims.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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